

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #70 - POSTED 04/17/93

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newslines is posted on this CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call (213) 462-0008, (805) 296-2407, (407) 259-4479, (708) 289-0423, (513) 275-9991, (718) 353-2801, (407) 965-1234 or (206) 368-3969. To provide stories and information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

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Thank You  
NEWSLINE

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Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY  
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU DJ0QN and

many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

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[817]

#### COMMISSION UPHOLDS \$8000 NAL

A non ham who calls himself an Anti-Castro freedom fighter has been ordered to immediately pay up an FCC imposed fine for transmissions he made in the forty meter amateur band. On March 22nd, the Commission upheld its earlier order that Roberto Pizano of Tampa, Florida forfeit \$8000 for violating the Communications Act by operating an unlicensed radio station.

Pizano never denied the charge. Instead, he admitted responsibility for conducting the unauthorized transmissions as part of what he calls a political propaganda efforts against the Castro regime in Cuba. This in association with a group of Cuban former prisoners called the Federacion Mundial de Ex-presos Politicos Cubanos.

Pizano sought reconsideration of the amount of the forfeiture in light of the Commission's downward adjustment criteria. He argued that the public interest in supporting a Cuban freedom-fighters dedicated to liberating his country should outweigh the Commission's regulatory interests. He also argued that levying a forfeiture against him would be tantamount to levying it against the group and was therefore unjust.

But the FCC looked at it in a very different way. They told Pizano that they had no interest in his group or its political agenda. That the Commission's responsibility is administering radio law. It told the illegal broadcaster that in determining the amount of a forfeiture, the Commission considers the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violations. And with respect to a violator that it also considers the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and such other matters as justice may require. Pizano had acknowledged his culpability, but argued that his actions were justified because of the goals of the organization on whose behalf he claimed to be acting.

The Commission said that Pizano offered no evidence to support his assertion that he was totally unable to pay any fine. They said that the only figures he provided addressed the Federation's financial standing and not his personally. They said that it is Pizano who is liable for the forfeiture, and not the anti-Castro political group.

The FCC also said that while Pizano had no prior history of violating the Communications Act, they feel that the evidence clearly indicates a continued predisposition on his part to do it again. Taking all of this into account in reviewing the case,

the commissioners fully agreed that no downward adjustment to Pizano's fine is warranted, and none will be made.

If Pizano wants to appeal the matter further, he will have to hire a lawyer and fight it in the federal courts. Meanwhile, you can be fairly certain that not only will the FCC be keeping an ear open for any more unauthorized broadcasts from Roberto Pizano. So will all the hams who regularly use the 40 meter amateur band. Word is that it was hams who alerted the FCC to Pizano's illegal broadcasts making him easy to find and prosecute.

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#### ARRL PRAISE

Words of praise from all over the amateur radio community are beginning to come in for the leadership of the American Radio Relay League over their decision to join with the FCC in trying to end the use of potty-mouth language on the airwaves. As reported last week, the National Association of Broadcasters say that the commission has no right to fine broadcasters for transmitting objectionable language. The broadcast community claims that such fines are a violation of their right to freedom of speech and they are suing the FCC to get the practice stopped and to have all outstanding fines canceled.

The ARRL says that it is afraid that such a win by the broadcast community would spill over into ham radio, making it impossible to enforce rules against the use of indecent language in the amateur radio service. Last week the league announced that it was petitioning to join with the suit on the side of the FCC and that word has made a lot of leaders in the amateur community stand up and say well done. One of these people is the president of the National Amateur Radio Association, Donald Stoner, W6TNS.

Don Stoner, W6TNS is not the only leader in the Amateur Radio community coming to the support of the ARRL and the FCC. More on this story next week.

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#### BRANTLEY LICENSE SUSPENDED

Still with enforcement matters comes word that James L. Brantley, K6KPS, of Los Angeles, California has agreed to a one year license suspension in-lieu of paying an \$8000 Notice of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture issued against him by the FCC last year.

On June 3, 1992 Brantley was fined \$7000 for malicious interference to other amateur stations and an additional \$1000 for making one-way transmissions. The commission alleged that

K6KPS had made one-way repetitive transmissions that consisted of calls that were not actually intended to establish two-way amateur radio communications.

After receiving the notice, the FCC says that Brantley replied that he could not afford to pay an \$8000 fine. So, he was given the option of the years suspension in its place. K6KPS reportedly has mailed his license to the FCC which will hold it for the period of suspension. The FCC said that it obtained the evidence against Brantley from complaints by other area radio amateurs and by its own mobile unit and field office monitoring.

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#### SAREX STS-56 IN ORBIT!

The Space Shuttle Discovery lifted off on April 8, at 0529 UTC (01:29 EDT) into clear Florida skies. The Shuttle carries NASA's Atmospheric Laboratory for Applications and Science-2 (ATLAS-02), and has been designated a ''mission to planet Earth.''

The Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) flies as a secondary payload. The 5 Amateur Radio-licensed crew on board Discovery will use SAREX to communicate with hams and student groups around the world. Seventeen schools will get a chance for a scheduled QSO with the astronauts.

Worldwide voice and packet downlink frequency is 145.55 MHz. The downlink is a receive only frequency. Voice uplink frequencies are 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97 and 144.99 MHz. Voice uplinks in Europe are 144.70, 144.75 and 144.80 MHz. Packet uplink is 144.49 MHz. Call sign for voice QSOs will be KB5AWP. Use W5RRR-1 for packet.

Listen to Goddard Amateur Radio Club station WA3NAN for rebroadcast of all Shuttle air-to-ground communications on 3.86, 7.185, 14.295, 21.395, 28.65 and 147.45 MHz.

All amateurs are reminded to be tolerant and cooperative of each other's use of frequencies during SAREX activities. SAREX operators should listen before transmitting, and only transmit when the shuttle is within range. Other users should remember that passes are short and occur only a few times each day of the mission. Any reports of actual interference experienced on shuttle frequencies by SAREX participants and other users, and background information, should be sent to ARRL.

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#### FCC SAYS NO TO EXPUNGE REQUEST

The FCC has denied a request by an attorney for Richard A. White Jr., KA3T, to have his record of correspondence with the Commission withdrawn and expunged. As you may remember, White was one of eight packet bulletin board operators to receive a

Notice of Violation in January, 1991, for forwarding an all USA packet radio message which the FCC called a business message.

The Notices of Violation required that the Packet Bulletin Board Sysops explain the circumstances of the violation and describe what steps they would take to prevent future violations. White responded through his lawyer and in April of 1991 and promised that no all USA messages would be sent by his station without prior screening to ensure compliance with the rules.

But White was still not satisfied. He wanted his record cleared through his lawyer he sought to have the correspondence between himself and the FCC removed from his records. White's lawyer argued that because no action against his client resulted from the notice that was entitled to an untainted record free of any question concerning the operation of his station.

But on March 22 the FCC flat out denied White's request. They said it was, denied that request. They said that the request was unwarranted because the commission does not consider a licensee's file contaminated merely by the presence of an exchange of correspondence between the Commission and the licensee. The FCC called the exchange between it and KA3T fruitful, in that it shows White as a licensee who takes seriously the responsibility for station control. It's unknown if KA3T will accept this FCC explanation or if he plans to file further appeals.

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#### NEW FCC CHIEF

Look for President Clinton to nominate Antoinette Cook to replace James Quello as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Cook is the staff council to the Senate Subcommittee on Communications. Last year, she was instrumental in pushing legislation through congress that brought the cable television industry back under federal control. According to the New York Times, Cook is believed to favor reinstating the Fairness Doctrine that requires broadcasters to give equal time to opposing points of view on controversial issues. If nominated and confirmed, Cook would be the first woman and the first black to head up the FCC. She would also be one of the youngest FCC Chairman in the history of the agency. Antoinette Cook is only age 36.

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#### EUROPEAN REPEATER CLOSES

From the international desk comes word that Englands' Central Birmingham VHF repeater GB3BM has gone off the air due to site security problems. Word is that the repeater trustee has

relinquished the frequency pair and it will be a while before another machine takes its place.

Why is this important? For two reasons. First off, many US hams visit the United Kingdom regularly and this information is vital to them. But more important it shows the difference in the way re-assigning a repeater channel pair takes place in different countries.

Unlike the United States, in the United Kingdom you cannot just rush out and put up a repeater on any vacant channel pair you choose. All repeater licenses are held in trust by the Radio Society of Great Britain. They assign the responsibility of putting up and maintaining repeaters to interested groups or individuals. When a repeater trustee -- or keeper -- decides to relinquish a channel pair, it stays vacant until the RSGB reassigns it to someone else willing to put up a new system in the same area. This means that the same group of hams will always have a repeater on the same channel serving a given region of the country.

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[818]

HICKS/WLR SAY YES TO ARRL

Yet another leader in the Amateur Radio community has voiced support for the American Radio Relay League. This over an ARRL announcement to stand with the Federal Communications Commission and against the National Association of Broadcasters dealing with what many feel to be a rising tide of smut on the airwaves by making certain that the government can continue issuing fines for these violations.

As previously reported, the ARRL announced on April the 2nd that it was petitioning to join with the FCC in a suit brought against the regulatory agency by the NAB. It is a suit that is also supported by numerous civil rights groups. The NAB contends that FCC fines for broadcasting legally indecent language are civil rights violations. They want the practice stopped and all outstanding fines canceled.

But the ARRL sees a win by the broadcasters becoming defacto law in all services. This would mean that there would be no way to curb the use of indecency on the ham bands.

Since the League said that it was getting involved, a number of leaders in the Amateur community have come to the ARRL's side. The latest is Westlink Report publisher Burt Hicks, WB6MQV.

In a hard-hitting editorial appearing in the April 15th issue of his newsletter, Hicks said that he applauds the American Radio Relay League in taking a position in favor of what he terms human

decency.

Hicks, who is the former President of the Ham Radio Business Council, the co-author of its petition to rid the ham bands of regulatory violators and a frequent Newsline anchor says that he decided to support the ARRL because he truly believes that the League is 100% correct in taking on this issue. He says that it is a fight for him, that comes right from the heart.

So far there has been nothing heard from anyone of consequence in the ham radio community opposed to the League's decision to stand shoulder to shoulder with the FCC.

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#### SALE OF AIRWAVES GAINS WIDE RANGING SUPPORT

A Clinton administration plan to sell the electromagnetic spectrum to the highest bidder as a way of increasing government revenues has gained conditional support from the industry and regulatory officials. While some government regulators did caution that any bidding process must provide the smaller businessman the ability to compete for this resource, they were generally in agreement that such a sale could help offset the rising federal debt.

Congress is currently considering legislation that would transfer some 200 MHz of government used spectrum over to the private sector for the development of emerging technologies like advanced cordless telephones, radio LAN's, worldwide paging systems, personal locators and other such devices. The House has already passed its version while the Senate still has its measure under consideration. Both versions do contain wording that would permit the allocation of some of the frequency bands by auction.

While industry leaders see the transfer of this spectrum as a boon to the United States economy, several groups including the National Association of Broadcasters and the American Radio Relay League feel that the services they represent should be excluded from any competitive bidding of reallocated spectrum based on the services they provide. The ARRL is working toward inclusion of language in the final bill to either protect Amateur Radio from any reallocation or provide alternative spectrum if any reallocation of ham bands shared with the government takes place. NAB feels that the Television broadcast bands should be excluded because the FCC is aware that applicants for these frequencies must be based only on their fitness to serve their local communities.

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#### SIKES TO HEARST

The Hearst Corporation has hired former FCC Chairman Alfred

C. Sikes to head up a new operating division responsible for new media and technologies. Sikes retired from the FCC on January 19 after almost four years as the head of the agency where he oversaw the early development of high definition television.

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#### STS-56 QSL Information

As we go to air, the latest SAREX space shuttle flight is coming to an end. So far, the scientists, the astronauts and hams worldwide are rating this as one of the best scientific and amateur radio flights ever. So, now is the time to begin thinking of sending the ham crew of STS-56 a QSL.

All radio amateurs and short-wave listeners who worked or heard the orbiting space station are invited to send their signal reports and QSL cards STS-56 QSL, in care of the Vienna Wireless Society, P.O. Box 418, Vienna, Virginia. Please remember to include a self-addressed-stamped-envelope. Non-US stations should include the appropriate number of International Reply Coupons with your QSL request.

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#### WRONG NUMBER

The 1993 World Radio and Television Handbook has an incorrect number of the data-line of Radio Netherlands. In case you want to dial in, the correct number is your International Dialing Access plus the numbers 31-35-24-53-95. Data format is 300, 1200 or 2400 Baud CCITT or BELL tones, 8 bits, no parity and 1 stop-bit. The Radio Netherlands data line is very popular with hams and SWL's worldwide.

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#### UK HAM OF THE YEAR

In news from the United Kingdom word that the Radio Society of Great Britains Youth Services Coordinator Hilary Claytonsmith, G4JKS, has been named that nations Amateur of the Year by the magazine Ham Radio Today. The announcement was made at the 1993 London Amateur Radio Show and specifically notes her work as the RSGB's Project Year coordinator as the reason for her being named to receive this award. In addition to her position in Project Year, G4JKS is also a member of the RSGB Council and is active in the fields of EMC prevention and HF contesting. All this in addition to recruiting young people into the Amateur Radio hobby.

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#### PRODIGY HAMS WIN BATTLE FOR A BBS OF THEIR OWN



Hams who are users of the Sears/IBM PRODIGY Interactive network have won a year-long battle to again have a bulletin board topic area of their very own. On March 24th, hams signing onto the hobbies board area found a message from Hobbies Board Leader Marty Hale-Evans telling them that the company had finally agreed to reinstate a ham radio only topic.

The confrontation between Prodigy and the Amateur Radio community began last spring when the Prodigy corporate management issued a directive to rename the "Amateur Radio" area to "Radio Hobbies". Then Prodigy Hobbies Board Leader Kim Hazelrigg said that this letter reflected the nature of the board area and the way in which the Prodigy management felt it should be viewed.

But hams felt slighted. They began a campaign of postings that insisted that the "Amateur Radio" title be returned, and also issued demands that all other radio related interests like CB, Shortwave Listening, scanning and the like should be kept separate. Day after day; week after week; postings appeared from hams nationwide that laid these twin demands at the doorstep of Prodigy with an added warning that the Amateur Radio community might abandon Prodigy completely and take their buying power with them unless the company capitulated.

It was not until Hazelrigg was replaced by Hale-Evans that some glimmer of hope for the return of an all-ham radio board began to show a glimmer of light. After being bombarded on-line with several hundred requests on her first day at work, Hale-Evans promised the radio amateurs on the Hobbies board that she would personally bring their concerns to the decision makers at Prodigy. It took a bit over three months, but she apparently was successful in getting management to change its mind and split "Ham Radio" into a separate board area. CB'ers, scanning enthusiasts, SWL's and the like are now found under the header "More Radio Hobbies."

And with this you think that the hams who use Prodigy would be happy. Many are not. You see, Prodigy has announced that its rates are once again going up.

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